

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
SAA-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /070 W
-----015075 100716Z /13

R 091035Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9486
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6444

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO DIA/AH6

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, MARR, AF, US
SUBJECT: AFGHAN GOVERNMENT POSITION ON EMBASSY'S ATTACHE AIRCRAFT.

REF: A) KABUL 6154; B) KABUL 5987 AND PREVIOUS.

1. SUMMARY: AFGHAN GOVERNMENT HAS DENIED THE EMBASSY
PERMISSION TO USE THE ATTACHE AIRCRAFT TO FLY WITHIN
AFGHANISTAN. END SUMMARY.

2. THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES WILL
RECALL THAT AFTER THE INITIAL FOREIGN MINISTRY TURN-
DOWN IN LATE JUNE ON A REQUEST TO MAKE A PROFICIENCY
CHECK FLIGHT, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SAID THEY WOULD
NEED TO STUDY THE FORMAL BASIS ON WHICH THE AIRCRAFT
WAS BASED IN COUNTRY BEFORE MAKING A DETERMINATION
ON ITS FUTURE USE. ON JULY 23, WE PROVIDED THE
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DEPUTY FONMIN DOST WITH COPIES OF THE 1966 AGREEMENT
AND 1976 AGREED GUIDELINES. THIS SUBMISSION WAS
FOLLOWED UP BY OUR ASKING PERMSSION TO MAKE
A PROFICIENCY CHECK FLIGHT ON AUGUST 13, TO BE FOLLOWED
BY A FLIGHT A WEEK LATER TO LASHKAGAH CARRYING
THE AMBASSADOR TO THE HELMAND VALLEY.

3. ON AUGUST 7, THE EMBASSY RECEIVED A DIPLOMATIC
NOTE IN REPLY, WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:

"THE CONCERNED AUTHORITIES OF THE DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN ARE UNABLE TO GIVE FLIGHT
PERMISSION TO THE EMBASSY'S AIRCRAFT TO FLY IN AFGHAN-
ISTAN. THE EMBASSY CAN, HOWEVER, USE THE AIRCRAFT FOR
FLIGHTS OUTSIDE OF AFGHANISTAN IN ITS FIXED CORRIDORS
BASED ON PREVIOUS FLIGHT PERMISSION."

4. COMMENT: THE NEGATIVE RESPONSE OF THE AFGHAN
GOVERNMENT WAS NOT UNEXPECTED. THE GOVERNMENT'S
LEFTIST COLORATION, ITS CLOSE TIES WITH THE SOVIET
UNION, AND THE FACT THAT OUR EMBASSY IS THE ONLY ONE
TO HAVE A RESIDENT ATTACHE AIRCRAFT MADE OUR AIRCRAFT
VULNERABLE. THE SENSITIVITY OF THE GOVERNMENT WAS
ALSO EVIDENT SEVERAL WEEKS AGO WHEN WE RECEIVED A
CIRCULAR NOTE REQUIRING THREE WEEKS ADVANCE NOTICE
FOR ANY MILITARY ATTACHE TRAVEL WITHIN THE COUNTRY.

5. THE DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
NOTE PERMITS US TO USE THE AIRCRAFT FOR FLIGHTS IN
AND OUT OF THE COUNTRY THROUGH ESTABLISHED AIR
CORRIDORS. WE LEAVE IT TO THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT
TO DECIDE IF THIS LIMITED USE FOR THE AIRCRAFT IS
SUFFICIENT TO JUSTIFY ITS CONTINUED PRESENCE IN
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THE COUNTRY.
DUBS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT, ATTACHES, FLIGHT CLEARANCES
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition Remarks:
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